

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected, a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having a base and inner and outer surfaces with securing means;

a first strap attached to one side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base;

a second strap attached to another side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve; and

means for fastening said first strap to said second strap.

2. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tab disposed on said first strap, said tab including perforations.

3. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one indentation at which said first and second straps are bendable.

4. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a series of indentations, said first and second straps each bendable at each indentation of said series.

5. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising channels at which said first and second straps are bendable.

6. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said means for fastening includes a tongue included within said first strap.

7. (original) The device of claim 6 wherein said means for fastening includes a tongue receiver included within said second strap.

8. (original) The device of claim 7 wherein said tongue includes a saw edge fastenable to said tongue receiver.

9. (original) The device of claim 8 wherein said tongue receiver includes a protrusion preventing said saw edge tongue from being retracted after insertion.

10. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a base extends from said ring forming a needle eye shaped.

11. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and second straps are comprised of plastic.

12. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said cylinder is comprised of plastic.

13. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first strap is bendable at three locations and said second strap is bendable at one location, said straps forming a square-like shape when fastened to one another.

14. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and second straps are integral with one another.

15. (cancelled)

16. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said securing means are tangs.

17. (currently amended) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected, a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

means for blocking particles from entering said first fitting, said means for blocking receivable by said first fitting; and

a first strap and a second ~~straps~~ strap configured to be bendable about said valve and attached to said means for blocking said first fitting, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base, said means for blocking being disposed between said ~~straps~~ first strap and a second strap, and said first strap configured to be fastenable to said second strap.

18. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said means for blocking is a thimble.

19. (previously presented) The device of claim 17 wherein said thimble includes an inner surface and an outer surface either one or both of said surfaces having tangs connectable to said first fitting.

20. (previously presented) The device of claim 19 wherein said first fitting is receivable by said thimble when said thimble has tangs on an inner surface and said thimble is receivable by said first fitting when said thimble has tangs on an outer surface.

21. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a tab disposed on said first strap, said tab including perforations.

24. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising an indentation at which said strap is bendable.

25. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said second strap further comprises a first strap receiver.

26. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said means for blocking is a tapered cylinder having a base.

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 26 wherein said tapered cylinder having a base includes an inner surface having tangs and an outer surface having tangs, wherein said first fitting is receivable by said tapered cylinder when said tapered cylinder has tangs on said inner surface and said tapered cylinder is receivable by said first fitting when said tapered cylinder has tangs on said outer surface.

28. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said first strap is bendable at three locations and said second strap is bendable at one location, said straps forming a square-like shape when fastened to one another.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting connectable to a distribution mechanism, ~~and~~ a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having a base, an inner surface with securing means, and an outer surface with securing means, said tapered cylinder attachable to said first fitting with either said securing means of said inner surface or said securing means of said outer surface;

a first strap attached to one side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base;

a second strap attached to another side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve; and

means for fastening said first strap to said second strap.

31. (currently amended) A protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting connectable to a distribution mechanism, and a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered thimble having inner and outer surfaces with securing means for attachment of said first fitting with either said inner or outer securing means;

a first strap attached to one side of the tapered thimble and bendable about the valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base;

a second strap attached to another side of the tapered thimble and bendable about the valve; and

means for fastening said first strap to said second strap.

32. (original) The device of claim 31 wherein said inner and outer securing means are tangs.